

From: Michael
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 2:39pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs and Madams:

It has come to my attention that nine misdirected states are attempting to thwart the Department of Justice's proposed settlement with Microsoft. After reading the proposed remedies, I have concluded that these are fair and beneficial to the consumer in the long run. In the short run, it will serve to employ hundreds of lawyers to determine what courses of action are acceptable for the company to pursue.

When the nine states continue to whine about these remedies not being enough, they are truly letting their ignorance, lack of understanding of the market, and greed show through. As an example: Apple makes the only "crash proof" desktop computer on the market. Apple has a 100% market share for that market. Apple refuses to allow other vendors to manufacture compatible "crash proof" hardware. This Apple monopoly locks out any and all competitors, raises the market price of Apple hardware, reduces the market share of "crash proof" systems, and hence due to that minimal market size, discourages developers from creating competing products for the Apple platform. Each of these steps TRULY harms consumers. Were it not for these foolish policies, Apple would be a true competitor to Microsoft compatible computers today.

In the days of the USSR (command & control) where only the government made automobiles, were they the best buys in the country for a good reason? Yes, it was due to their being the only automobile available to the few that could afford them. If the dissenting states were truly worried about consumers and competition, they would be working through the DOJ to force Apple to open their market. The fact they are not simply demonstrates their ulterior motives.

The last 2 large anti-trust cases in U.S. history (AT & T, and IBM) had the unintended and ugly effect of turning these two symbols of American technology into bumbling giants void of any current serious innovation. Please look at the meaningless shell that is now AT & T before you decide to drag this case on further.

Best regards,

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DISCLOSURE NOTE: I own less than 1000 shares of Microsoft stock, and have used the company's software products for over 10 years.

